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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2019-

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE
TO PROVIDE A CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319(H) (CWA 319)
GRANT TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA-DAVIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A TOOL TO EVALUATE
GROUNDWATER IMPACTS FROM NONPOINT SOURCES
ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURAL LAND USE (PROJECT)**

WHEREAS:

1. On June 2, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted [Resolution No. 2015-0037](#) authorizing the Executive Director to apply for, accept, and/or amend a Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 CWA 319 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S EPA); to execute and amend contracts and grants to implement nonpoint source project proposals previously approved by the Executive Director; and to negotiate and approve program workplans.
2. A portion of the FFY 2015 CWA 319 grant funds are unallocated due to underspending.
3. The FFY 2015 CWA 319 grant requires that FFY 2015 CWA 319 grant funds be encumbered and liquidated by June 30, 2020.
4. The Groundwater Branch of the Division of Water Quality has been working with the University of California-Davis on the Project. The Project will develop a computational modeling tool to analyze nitrate discharges from agricultural land into the Central Valley aquifer system. An online version of the tool will allow users to rapidly assess potential groundwater quality improvements associated with changes in nonpoint source loading of nitrate, including crop type.
5. The Project is a collaborative effort between the University of California-Davis, California Natural Resources Conservation District, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Water Board, and Central Valley agricultural groups that are implementing the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

D R A F T

6. The Project was not among the projects approved prior to the State Water Board's adoption of Resolution No. 2015-0037 and is being recommended for funding outside the annual competitive solicitation process.
7. On September 17, 2019, the State Water Board adopted the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines, which contain minimum eligibility requirements for the Nonpoint Source Grant Program and allow for unencumbered funds from previous grant years to be used for eligible projects in accordance with the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Preferences.
8. The Project is eligible for a CWA 319 grant under the CWA 319 statute, the FFY 2015 CWA 319 grant, and applicable U.S. EPA guidance.
9. The Project does not meet several of the minimum eligibility requirements of the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines, including the requirements to show pollutant load reductions, to implement a watershed-based plan, to provide 25% funding match, to implement management measures and/or management practices that reduce nonpoint source pollutant loads to surface waters and groundwater, and to implement a total maximum daily load (TMDL) or TMDL alternative.
10. The Project supports the objectives of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and State Water Board to reduce nitrate loading in groundwater, specifically the priorities of the Central Valley-wide Salt and Nitrate Management Plan and State Water Board [Water Quality Order 2018-0002](#), In the Matter of Review of Waste Discharge Requirements General Order No. R5-2012-0116 for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-Party Group Issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region.
11. The Project supports the objectives of the 2014 – 2020 California Nonpoint Source Program Implementation Plan.

D R A F T

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to enter into an agreement for the Project with the Regents of the University of California-Davis, to provide a CWA 319 grant of no more than \$140,000.
2. Waives minimum eligibility requirements described in the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines for the Project, so long as the Project remains eligible for CWA 319 funding under all other applicable state and federal requirements.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on December 3, 2019.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board